# A True Recitall

touching the cauſe of the death of *Thomas Bales*, a Seminarie Prieſt, who was hanged and quartered in Fleet-ſtreet on Aſhwedneſdaie laſt paſt.

1590.

Wherevnto is adioyned the true cauſe of the death of Annis Bankyn, who vpon the next day following was burned in Saint Georges fields about ſixe of the clocke at night.

LONDON

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1590.

T

ON wednesdaie being the fourth day of March last 1590. there was a Seminarie Priest brought forth of Newgate, who a few daies before had ben iustly condemned for high Treason, where according to his iudgement before past, and the qualitie of his offence, hee was laide vpon a hurdle, and from thence drawne into Holborne, & so through Fetter lane conuaied into Fléet stréet, where was a newe Iebbet set vp for that purpose, & people in great abundance resorted to sée the prisoner executed.

This Priest came thether apparelled in the habit of a Gentleman, in a dublet of blacke satten, cut with great cuts, & drawn out with white silke, he had on a paire of small round paine hose, & on euerie paine a faire gold lace, his neather stockes were of purple silke, and a paire of bootes ouer them, Gentleman like, turnd downe at the knée, and faced with veluet, he had a blacke felt hat on his head, & his haire was verie long, so that he could hardly be knowen from an ordinarie Gentleman.

Thus being apparelled and come to the place of execution, conducted thether by the sheerife of London, and the officers of the said

Citie. For that the iebbet was not full ready, the sheerife did withdrawe the prisoner into a house hard by, where an ancient & worshipfull Gentleman in office towards her Maiestie, had some time of conference with the prisoner. And when euerie thing was in a readines, the prisoner was brought backe again to be executed. And first before hee went vp, his boots were pulled off, & his neather stocks also, whereby his feete and legs were naked, his other clothes hung loose about him, with his hands tied, & so went hee vp the ladder, the hang-man being then readie on the top of the iebbet to receiue him with the halter, which he put about his neck. Which done, the priest began to speake vnto the people, shewing the ỹ hee was a Priest, & after went about to defend the papish religion colorably, & seemed to iustifie himselfe, by saying he had not offended her Maiestie. Whervpon the Gentleman before mencioned spake vnto ỹ priest, & shewed him wherein he had offended the lawes of this land, in cases of high treason. First, by being a Seminarie Priest (therby a sworne enemie to this land) and hauing liued out of the lande among her Maiesties enemies, was agayne lately returned onelie to persuade her Maiesties subiectes from their due obedience. The confession of this priest also taken before

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in writing, was read openly, where he sayde that the Pope hath authoritie to depose the Quéenes Maiesty of England, as though the Queenes Maiestie and the religion now vsed in England, had bin vnder the gouernment of the Pope, and therefore to bee disanulled at the Popes pleasure, whereby hee denied her Maiestie of her supremacie in the Churches of her dominions, which is high treason of it selfe. Last of all, he shewed vnto the people, & auouched it to the prisoners face, (which he coulde not denie) that this priest who was an Englishman borne, and therefore a subiect to her Maiestie, contrarie to his duetie, had betaken himselfe a long time a subiect & seruant to the Pope, with sundrie other, who together were lately come ouer into England, to persuade her Maiesties subiects from their obedience, by becomming assistants and fauourers of a new inuasion, now speedily pretended by the helhounds of the Romish Synagogue, therby to become traitors to her Maiestie, in working the ruine of this lande, as hath bin lately pretended, yet their hope made frustrate by Gods prouidence, who stil doubtles fighteth for this land, and defendeth all the true subiects thereof, for the sake of our holie Iudith, who swaieth the sword of iustice with great wisedome and mercie, whose person the

God of heauen prosper and continue in this land, and grant vnto her long life, and a peaceable raigne ouer vs, that during her life she may so quaile the hearts of all the enimies to this land, that none hereafter may dare to attempt the hurt thereof. This Popish Priest aforesaid, after a few Popish praiers mumbled to himselfe, was turned from of the ladder, and permitted to hang vntil he was dead, and after was quartered in seuerall peeces, to be set vp in seuerall places, to the example of al other hereafter. And ouer the Iebbet was written in great letters the cause of his death in these wordes, viz.

For Treason and fauoring of forraine Inuasion.

In the forenoone of the same daie also, there were two hanged, the one in Smithfield, and the other in the fieldes at Graies Inne lane end, for secret harboring, receiuing and denying this Priest & others such pernitious persons, by whose meanes great hurt may arise. The one died a very obstinate Papist, the other a very penitent person, for ie that hee had transgressed her Maiesties lawes in that case: which thing he onely did for worldly benefit. To conclude, let this their follie forewarne al others, how they enter into such actions, and refraine

restraine from secret harbouring, releeuing or succouring such lewd persons, who seeke by all possible meanes to ruinate this lande, by depriuing the Queenes most excellent Maiestie, and bringing in forraine enimies: that by inuasion they may shedde the bloude of innocents, and rote out all her Maiesties louing subiects, which God grant may neuer come to passe, Amen.

## A woman executed on the Thursdaie following.

ON the Thursdaie following there was a rumour throughout London, that a maide seruant shoulde be burned in S. Georges fieldes, which but two daies before (at the Assizes holden in Southwarke for the Countie of Surrey) had bin found guilty, condemned and iudged so to suffer death for murther by her committed. Whereupon a stake was set vp in the said fielde, and the reedes and faggots brought thether, but by reason of the throng of people which came thether out of London, they were constrained to defer the execution vntil after five of the clocke at night, at which time the greater multitude being departed, the prisoner was brought forth sodenly, and

conuaied into the field, without anie notice giuen to anie of the people otherwise, then that she should be burned in the place where the stake before stood, to which place the people flocked in great abundance. Now the shirefe and the warders that accompanied him, perceiuing the vnrulines of the people to bee great, sodenly cast themselues in a round, and vpon a faire greene place in the waie as they came, digged a hole, and therein pitched the stake, and fastned the prisoner therunto, who came thether in this sort: shee being stripped out of her clothes in the prisō before she came forth, had nothing vpon her but a wide frocke downe to her foote, made of course canuas, gathered about the wristes, with an olde neckinger about her necke, and a faire kercher vppon her head, about her necke there was a long yron chaine fastned, whereby she was lead, and came wallowing like a Beare to the stake, according to her ordinarie vse of going when she was in seruice. And beeing fastned to the stake with two yron chaines, reeds were set round about her, and faggots of very dry stickes planted by them, in which shee was wholy incompassed, and nothing to be seen of her roūd about, but only her face, on one side the reedes looking forth. And so with as much speed as might be, after the ministers

hitters had perſuaded her to call vppon God, and to arme her ſelf with patience, and not to feare death, with other good admonitions for her ſoules health. Hauing ſaide the Lordes praier, & asked God & al the world forgiuenes, the reeds were ſet on fire firſt vnderneath hir with a Linke, & then round about her, wherof the reedes and dry faggots tooke ſpeedie hold, and ſo ſoone as ſhe felt the force & fiercenes of the fire to touch hir, ſhe cried out twice ſaying, alaſſe, alaſſe, and hauing called vppon God, euen in ſhort ſpace the ſmoke and vapor of the fire choked hir, that ſhe was ſome dead, and ſo continued in the fire vntil ſhe was conſumed to aſhes. Now forſomuch as the moſt part of people coulde neither ſee the priſoner, nor knowe the true circumſtaunce of her offence, whereby her death iuſtly enſued, it is thought conuenient that the ſame be here expreſſed, to the intent ſhe may bee an example to others to auoide the like wickednes.

This perſon whome I can neither call by the name of maide, wife nor widowe, for that ſhe was neuer maried, and yet hath had three or foure children, did remain in and about the Borough of Southwarke a long time, and was when ſhe died about two & forty yeeres of age, and about two yeeres ſince came into the ſeruice of one Lewes Bell a Water-man dwel-

dwelling on the banke side neere the Clinke, he beeing a man of good reputation & calling, and one that hath borne the most part of offices to be borne among the inhabitants thereabout, and before she came into this mannes service, she had dwelt with a Mistres within Chain-gate, whom she robbed of ten pounds, yet conuaied it so secretly, as she went vnsuspected for the same: she being new come into the seruice of the said Bell, who had an honest aged woman to his wife then liuing, which this wicked person soone dispatched with poison, wherof shortly after her mistres died, and nothing sayd nor suspected. This was about two yeres since. After this, as some saith, she perswaded her selfe, that her maister would haue married her, which he neuer promised to do, nor intended anie such matter towardes her, neither was there anie reason he should so do, because she was ill fauoured, vnhandsome, and foolish, her looks were crabbed, her behauiour vnseemly, and in qualities sluttish: yet inwardly subtill, so that about Midsommer last her maister married a widow, being a very honest and comely woman, and of reasonable yeres, whom as it seemeth, this bad creature secretly enuied for marrying hir master, and shortly after this woman fel sicke in verie grieuous sort, & lay languishing a long

time

time of the saide disease, which in deede was poisoned potage, whereof she did eate but a little, whereupon her eies watered grieuously, and her stomacke was very ill. This woman had two wenches in the house dwelling with her, the yonger of them seeing her mistres set by the potage, tooke them and did eate them, whereof soone after she swelled vpward in the throate and so died. This was about Saint Iames tide last. The bigger girle hauing had some taste of the same, sickned also, so that the haire fell off from her head, and broke out in verie ill fauoured sort, but being strong of nature escaped death. All which notwithstanding, there arose no doubte nor suspition of poisoning, by her to be attempted, vntil about Bartholmew tide following, at which time her mistres being recouered of her grieuous and strange disease, tooke occasion to put her awaie, willing her to prouide for her self, and so she did. Whereupon on the daie before, she should departe from her said mistres seruice, she hauing carried awaie all her apparell and furniture, promised that night to come and sup with her master and mistres, and to giue them a posset: she being departed, there was missed the summe of fifteene shillings, which by her had beene taken forth of a cubborde: Whereupon the good man sent his wife to

seeke

seeke hir, whom with much a doe she brought home, where the good man in searching her, found the most part of his wiues money, and besides, found a paper of poison in her bosom, which he did not know to be poison, vntil one of his neighbours being a Surgion, was sent for to see the same, who tolde him that it was poison, and although they did demand of her to what vse she bought or kept it, yet would she not confesse the same, vntill they brought her before a Iustice, to whom with much a do, & the secret working of Almighty God, who wold haue the truth of such wickednes come to light, she confessed as followeth. First, that she had with poison murdered her olde mistres, about Saint Andrews tide was twelue moneth. Item, that she had once attempted to murther her mistres now being, with poison, whereof she fel sicke, but recouered againe, by giuing her poison in a messe of pottage. Item, that her mistres eating but two or three spoonefulls of the said potage, did set them by and would eate no more, and then the yonger wench in the house did eate vp the rest of the sayd pottage, and some after dyed thereof. Item, she confessed that she had taken ten pounds from hir mistres that she serued before within Chaine-gate, and that shee had dispersed the same, and lent it foorth to

sundry

vnderie persons. She also confessed that shee had taken the sayde fiftéene shillings foorth of her mistres cubboord, by taking her key from vnder her beds head when she was a sleepe. And lastly being demanded what her intent was to do with that poison, which was found about her, she confessed that her intent and meaning was euen that night to haue poisoned her mistres, by putting the same poison into the posset which was promised to be eaten at her mistres house that night. Whereof must néeds haue ensued farre greater danger both to her mistres, & to her master, with the rest of the householde, had not God verie miraculously, as you haue heard before prevented it.

Thus haue you heard howe the deuill wrought with this wicked creature from time to time. First he allured her by idlenesse and fleshly desires to become incontinent, and to leade a verie loose and lasciuious life, by hauing one childe after another, and yet neuer married nor liuing satisfied, but liued lyke a dog that still returned to his olde vomit. Herevpon a couetous desire of wealth made her pilfer and picke from one mistres and then from another, so that for want of the feare of God, one sinne tooke hold of another, and forced her to murther an honest olde woman

with

with poison, and so from her to another, seeking to worke confusion vpon confusion, vntill God by his wonderfull prouidence did bring the same to light, and forced her owne heart and tongue to reueale her abhominable wickednes, onely to bring her selfe to shame and confusion, which by sentence of iustice was compassed, who awarded her due iudgement agreeable to her wicked deserts.

FINIS.